



TASMANIA

SOLICITOR-GENERAL OF TASMANIA

15 MURRAY STREET, HOBART 7000

Telephone: (03) 6165 3614
Fax: (03) 6233 2510
DX: 15 Hobart
e-mail: solicitor.general@justice.tas.gov.au

Our reference: AEM
Your reference:
Email: amber.mignot@justice.tas.gov.au

21 November 2016

Ms Mailin Suchting
Manager Policy
Royal Commission
GPO Box 5283
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Ms Suchting

Therapeutic treatment services available in correctional settings

I refer to your request for information in relation to therapeutic treatment services available to young people in juvenile justice and adults in prison who have experienced child sexual abuse.

Adults in prison

The following information relates to adults in the custody of the Tasmania Prison Service (TPS).

What therapeutic responses are available/are funded for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse?

Therapeutic responses delivered to adults in custody are not explicitly funded for survivors of child sexual abuse. However, therapeutic support is available on an individual basis.

During the Tasmanian Government's Abuse in State Care compensation scheme, operated during the period 2003 to 2013, the TPS provided support to adults in custody making a claim and supported inmate claimants to address any trauma that resulted from the process. The TPS does not hold any statistical information to identify inmates who were seen in that capacity and there was no specific program or additional funding.

The intervention programs delivered in the Tasmania Prison Service are available to all prisoners. In a small jurisdiction, it is difficult to run specific interventions for inmates given the low numbers and limited resources available.

The TPS Intervention Programs Unit provides a range of programs to assist offenders address their offending behaviour including:

- EQUIPS: Foundations followed by Addiction, Aggression, or Domestic Violence.
- Making Choices and Stopping Violence: general antisocial patterns of behaviour and family violence.
- New Directions: sex offender treatment.

How is eligibility determined for these services and what number of inmates have taken up/been provided with these services in the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2016. Are there people who need services who aren't receiving them?

The need for interventions or other services is determined during various assessment processes. The TPS undertakes a number of assessments depending on need and sentence length outlined below.

Tier 1:

- Assessment of immediate management needs, including the risk of suicide or self-harm, the need for protection, issues of vulnerability and other issues relevant to a prisoner's safety and security while in custody.
- Health Assessment – physical and psychological health, and may involve referral for specialist assessment.

Tier 2:

- Basic social and welfare needs assessment.

Tier 3:

- Level of Service and Case Management Inventory.
- Specialist education assessment.

Tier 4 (specialist assessments):

- Sex offender treatment program eligibility assessment:
This assessment is administered to sex offenders referred to the Sex Offender Treatment Program as a result of the Tier Three assessment process.
- Specialist Therapeutic Services Assessment:
A specialist assessment to identify complex needs, conducted by psychologists

and other specialist staff such as counsellors and occupational therapists from Therapeutic Services.

The TPS can provide statistics only in relation to the total number of prisoners commencing and completing programs. It is unable to determine whether such participants were survivors of child sexual abuse.

What activities have prisons implemented (if anything) to ensure they are trauma informed?

The TPS has adopted a trauma informed framework in relation to alcohol and drug treatment and family violence, with staff from the TPS Integrated Offender Management and Industries Unit attending training to assist in providing trauma informed care. The TPS have commenced a process of undertaking research into trauma informed prison practices.

Juvenile justice

Please find set out below a response in relation to each of the specific questions as they relate to young people in detention at the Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC).

What therapeutic responses are available/are funded for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse?

Correctional Primary Health Services provide health services at Ashley Youth Detention Centre that adhere to the Primary Health Care model and which are comparable to health services available in the broader community.

This includes provision of assessment services and referral to specialist services, including access to a clinical psychologist, psychiatrist and community based services such as the Sexual Assault Support Service (SASS) upon release.

How is eligibility determined for these services and what number of inmates have taken up/been provided with these services in the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2016. Are there people who need services who aren't receiving them?

All young people detained at AYDC are seen by a Correctional Primary Health Services (CPHS) nurse within the first 24 hours of admission. The CPHS nurse undertakes a Tier 1 assessment, which includes a Brief Mental Status Exam (MSE). Where this reveals concerns a more in-depth assessment occurs. From here a young person may be referred to the onsite clinical psychologist and/or psychiatrist.

A clinical psychologist is onsite two days per week, Monday and Thursday. Multiple referral pathways to the psychologist exist. It is estimated that the psychologist sees 80% of young people in a voluntary capacity. In addition, a psychiatrist is contracted, through TAZREACH to visit AYDC 10 to 12 times per annum, equating to every 4 to 6 weeks.

If there is acute risk and the psychologist is not onsite the CPHS nurse will call, email or organise a video conference a health provider. This may result in the psychologist attending AYDC outside of normal scheduled hours.

As dedicated services for victims of child sexual abuse are not provided, AYDC is unable to provide statistics in relation to the participation of detainees who were survivors are child sexual abuse.

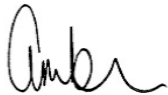
What activities have prisons implemented (if anything) to ensure they are trauma informed?

Currently, priority practices and procedures are being reviewed (and where necessary amended) to reflect best practice and ensure a therapeutic informed approach is adopted. Trauma informed care training is being rolled out to all staff.

A proposal is being developed to strengthen the use of multi-disciplinary teams to deliver results for both residents and staff and support a therapeutic informed approach.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss further.

Yours sincerely



AMBER MIGNOT
LEGAL PRACTITIONER
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL